

Elizabeth S. Cohen

Additional contact information available upon request • E-mail tento9@aol.com

WORK EXPERIENCE

11/00-present Queer Youth Training Collaborative and the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center
San Francisco, CA

Co-Coordinator for Youth Conference Meeting on Overcoming Homophobia

- *Logistics:* Creating and developing curriculum to train steering committee. Created agendas and facilitate steering committee meetings. Organized to ensure a free conference for youth by securing donations from many different organizations, restaurants, stores, etc. Acquire conference t-shirts and patches. Find, reserve, and select conference location and design layout Coordinated, scheduled and recruited volunteers, and created instruction manuals for logistics of conference. Developed and implement registration process. Gather and network organizations for resource fair.
- *Content:* Plan conference opening and closing ceremonies, keynote speakers, bands, and performers. Create conference program. Acquire workshop presenters and develop workshop tracks.
- *Outreach:* Design flyers, pamphlets, logo, banners, and stickers. Develop web page lay out. Contact local organizations, schools, and community groups. Send out mailings. Develop and send out press release

10/99-8/0 Printers Inc. Coffee Shop Mountain View, CA

- Customer service, cash register, make espresso, prepare and serve food (deli, pasta, hot sandwiches, soups).
- Light janitorial duties.

1997-present Child Care Services (Self Employed) San Jose, CA

- Entertain, lead activities, prepare meals, and care for children (infant through age 6).
- Light housework.

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

11/99-present Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) Network

Youth Board Member, Peer Educator

- Executive decisions as board member including approving budgets, programming, and projects as well as logistical work and facilitation for the board meetings, including designing and implementing weekend retreats.
- Executive Committee member, Curriculum Committee Chair, Strategic Planning Committee member.
- Provide support and technical assistance for currently existing GSAs (Gay/Straight Alliances) in high schools and help to start up new GSAs in south bay, including monthly trainings.
- Assist GSA leaders in developing action plans, designing outreach strategies, and conducting social, educational, and advocacy activities at regional trainings.
- Develop program materials and curricula on topics relating to dismantling oppressions and fighting homophobia.
- Teach workshops and classes at nation-wide and regional conferences on empowering youth to fight homophobia and other oppressions.
- Steering Committee member, facilitator, and food coordinator for five-day activist camp.

02/00-present Youth Gender Project

Consultant

- Create and facilitate workshops at conferences regarding youth and gender.
- Consulting on the development, structure, and role of a youth board.

09/00-present Center For Commercial Free Education

Youth Advisory Board President

- Facilitate meetings and create agendas for Youth Advisory Board
- Guide organization on issues affecting youth.
- Develop outreach and resources material for youth "by youth".
- Network, and recruit other Youth Advisory Board members.
- Create, design, distribute zine (newsletter).
- Organize District Wide campaign against exclusive soda contract in San Jose Unified. Created press release, designed and implement petition, held and organized protest.

09/00-present Youth Empowerment Initiative

- Facilitate meetings, actions, and discussions.
- Network other members through phone and e-mail
- Develop and implement proposals aimed at addressing ageism, and other systems of oppression within the structure of the Gay and Lesbian Student Education Network (GLSEN) and the Teaching Respect For All Conference, GLSEN's annual conference.
- YEI liaison to GLSEN staff.

04/00 City Year of San Jose

Camp Leader

- Guide and lead a group of 12 4th and 5th graders in interactive activities that promote social awareness, and diversity.
- Create and lead structured physical activity games.
- Lead all campers (75 youth) in opening and closing activities.
- Assist in the set up and clean up of art and other activities for all campers.

11/99-03/00 South Bay Coalition for "No on Prop 21"

- Organized a candle lit vigil at San Jose City Hall. Acquired donations, speakers, and artists.
- Created and distributed fliers, signs, and press release.
- Teach-in's and tabling at community centers, schools, and local events.
- Steered and guided decisions as member of the coalition in regards to youth organizing within the South Bay including other protests, walk-ins, marches, and rallies.

04/98-06/98 Cindy Chavez For City Council Campaign

- Door to Door canvassing, voter registration, phone banking, stuffing, and sending mailings, data base entry.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Co-president and Co-founder of Lincoln High School's GSA Aug 99- present
- Co-founder of Lincoln High School's *Students For Justice*
- Associate Student Body Freshman Class Secretary, Sophomore and Junior Representative, at Lincoln High School, 09/98-01/01
- Editor Lincoln High School newspaper, *Lion Tales*, 08/00-01/01

AWARDS RECEIVED

- "Superhero for Justice" for dedication in the campaign to defeat propositions 21 and 22 from Californians for Justice, 03/00
- Paul Moore Award and Scholarship for "All Around Excellence" at St. Patrick's School, 06/98
- Girl Scouts of America Gold Award for community service and leadership, 05/97